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# NASA Procedural Requirements

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**COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY**[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)

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## Subject: Aircraft Operations Management w/Interim Revision to Chapter 3

**Responsible Office: Aircraft Management Division**

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## Appendix A. Aviation Medical Program Certification for NASA Pilots

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### A.1. Purpose

This appendix establishes requirements and procedures for medical certification of NASA aircraft pilots. It is applicable to NASA Headquarters and Centers, including Component Facilities and applies to both civil service and contractor pilots flying NASA research and development, program support, and mission management aircraft; it does not apply to space flight, nor to astronaut pilots.

### A.2. Guidelines

2.1. The Occupational Health Clinic physician indicates successful medical certification to the Center Director and respective flight manager who determine flight status for pilots flying NASA aircraft.

2.2. Pilot medical examinations will include either an FAA Class I, military pilot flight physical, or NASA flight medical certification as a base requirement. The certification will be renewed annually.

2.3. Examinations conducted by non-NASA Aircrew Medical Examiners (AME) will require a records review by a NASA Occupational Health Clinic physician prior to recommendation to the Center Director. This requirement includes the signing of formal permission for release of medical records.

### A.3. Review Boards

3.1. An Aerospace Flight Medical Certification Review Board will be established at the Agency level. Membership will include the Director, Occupational Health and Aerospace Medicine Office; a NASA flight surgeon; an external flight surgeon; the Lead, Aircraft Management Team; a representative of the Intercenter Aircraft Operations Panel; and a representative of the appropriate Center.

3.2. Aerospace Flight Medical Certification Review Boards may be established at the individual Centers, membership to be determined by each Center.

### A.4. Waivers

4.1. Military and NASA pilot certifying examinations that do not require waivers, as well as those requiring only routine limitations (e.g., for eyeglasses), will be forwarded by the Center Occupational Health Clinic directly to the Center Director and flight manager. FAA examinations that do not require waivers will be forwarded by the Center Occupational Health Clinic to the FAA for basic certification by the Center Director and flight manager.

4.2. Those examinations that require a waiver for FAA certification will be reviewed by the Center and/or Agency Aerospace Flight Medical Certification Review Board prior to submission to the FAA. When in agreement, the review board will forward supporting documentation to the FAA, with NASA's recommendation for approval. Those military and NASA examinations which require a waiver will be reviewed by the Center and/or Agency Aerospace Flight Medical Certification Review Board for approval.

4.3. Denial of waiver by the Center review board may be appealed to the Agency review board for final review. Decisions by either flight medical certification review board may also, in unusual cases, be appealed directly to the Center Director.

## A.5. Examiner Qualifications

An Occupational Health Clinic physician, performing NASA flight certification examinations, will require prior approval by the FAA as a designated aviation medical examiner. The physician will also be required to participate in periodic flight surgeon training programs presented by the NASA Occupational Health and Aerospace Medicine Office.

## A.6. Responsibilities

6.1. The Associate Administrator for Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications is responsible for the overall NASA Occupational Health Program, including development of NASA pilot medical certification examination procedures.

6.2. The Program Associate Administrators have responsibility for ensuring that their Centers comply with occupational health policy as detailed in this NPR and related documents.

6.3. The Center Directors and the Assistant Administrator for Institutional and Corporate Management have the responsibility for implementation of this NPR at their respective Centers. Center Directors also will determine the desirability of maintaining occupational health pilot certification capability at their individual Centers. As an alternative, they may wish to utilize existing capabilities at other Centers.

## A.7. Authority

7.1. OMB Circular A-72.

7.2. Public Law 91-596, Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, as amended.

7.3. Executive Order 12196, Occupational Safety and Health Programs for Federal Employees.

7.4. Public Law 79-658, 5 U.S.C. 7901.

7.5. 31 U.S.C. 483a.

7.6. FPM Chapter 792, Federal Employees Occupational Health Programs.

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